

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-24, and 26-30 are pending. Upon entry of this response, claims 9, 12, 13, 18-23, 26, and 27 will be pending, claim 18 having been amended and claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-17, 24, and 28-30 canceled by way of this response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 12, and 13 were allowed.

112, 2nd Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 11, 18-23, 26, 27, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 18 has been amended to replace “expresses its function” with “expresses a functional polyester synthesis-associated enzyme,” as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 18-23, 26, and 27 are believed to be definite.

Claims 11, 29, and 30 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot.

Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

102((b)) Rejections

Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukui (U.S. Patent No. 5,981,257).

Claims 28 and 29 have been canceled, rendering the rejections moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 24, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukui in view of Park (J. Biol. Chem. 1997; 272(11): 6876-81).

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 24, 28, and 29 have been canceled, rendering the rejections moot. Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

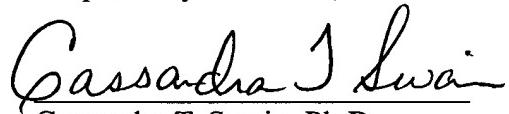
CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be allowable. Applicants request entry and consideration of this response.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,



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